United Nations E/CN.5/2019/NGO/42

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
8 November 2018

Original: English

Commission for Social Development
Fifty-seventh session
11–21 February 2019
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: Priority Theme: Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies

Statement submitted by Society to Support Children Suffering from Cancer (MAHAK), a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-18927 (E) 121118

Please recycle

Statement

27 years ago, MAHAK- the Society to Support Children Suffering from Cancer, was established with the aim of supporting the families of cancer-stricken children who need special care throughout the hard days of treatment. In this regard, different measures were taken, such as establishing a residential center for the families who came to the capital city for the treatment of their child.

By the passage of the time and the expansion of MAHAK's vision and, as a result of multiplication of the needs of the families, it was decided, in 2007, to establish a specialized hospital to provide comprehensive treatment and supportive services to cancer-stricken children regardless of gender, color and ethnicity.

From then onward, the best and updated measures have been taken for providing all-purpose diagnostic, treatment and supportive services to children with cancer and their families. Some of these activities include launching joint projects with experts and specialists in the field of cancer treatment with the aim of sharing and benefiting from knowledge and experiences.

MAHAK has had precise plannings to accomplish its mission and has utilized all its capacities in line with the realization of its vision. However, providing treatment is a long and difficult process in low and middle-income countries, where health care systems are facing great challenges to improve cancer care, control costs, and increase systems efficiency. The disparity in access to care and outcomes between high-income countries and low- and middle-income countries is staggering. The reasons for this disparity include cost, access to care, manpower and training deficiencies, and a lack of awareness in the lay and medical communities. Diagnosis and treatment play an important role in this complex environment.

MAHAK as a charity organization operating in a middle-income country with all the expenses being covered by public donations; is also facing different challenges. Considering the need to scale up cancer care in the low- and middle-income countries, these challenges can be managed via proper planning while some others, which are caused by external factors, are not manageable by any one organization alone.

One of the external factors is the imposed embargos which have hindered some of the vital processes for accomplishing the mission of MAHAK, a charity organization which is striving to support innocent cancer-stricken children and their families in a comprehensive manner.

Currently, debilitating sanctions have been unilaterally imposed on Iran as a result of which fund transfer from other countries has become effectively impossible and therefore have led to the scarcity and related price hikes of crucial drugs in the country and have put the lives of all patients with severe sicknesses especially cancer-stricken children in hazard. As an NGO which has received the top score by Société Generale de Surveillance (SGS) global NGO Benchmark practice with the score of 97.5% in September 2018 from among all the organizations which have valid certificates and as an organization which is responsible for health and serenity of more than 17000 under treatment cases, we would like to share our deep concern that the sanctions imposed on Iran have made it extremely difficult to procure required medications, for children with cancer, as the expenses have doubled.

To address the above-mentioned issue, we have communicated this dire predicament to international organizations working in human services and closely related fields which can resolve this issue. We believe that solving such issues will not be possible unless humanity strives for them and policy-making organizations plan for their eradication, disregarding the borders with the aim of promoting the idea of giving borderless love to all the people in universe.

As many countries are working hard to establish a payment mechanism that would curtail the impact of these sanctions, international organizations can undertake a similar emergency measure to address the resulting public health problems that will ensue.

In the same regard the famous Iranian13-th century poet has said:

Human beings are members of a whole

In creation of one essence and soul

If one member is afflicted with pain

Other members uneasy will remain

If you have no sympathy for human pain

The name of human you cannot retain